

Indian Healthcare Fed to pick up 5.1% in NSDC

By **Sovon Manna** in New Delhi

INDIAN HEALTHCARE Federation (IHF), which includes non-government hospitals, diagnostic firms, medical equipment makers and pharmaceutical companies among its members, has decided to pick up a 5.1 per cent stake in the National Skill Development Corp (NSDC), a Section 25 company promoted by the Union finance ministry to catalyse private sector involvement in the development of 150 million trained manpower by 2022 in 21 critical sectors identified by the government.

The IHF is also likely to play a prominent role in the establishment of a Healthcare Sector Skill Development Council (HSSDC) on the lines of the Automotive Skill Development Council (ASDC), the formation of which is being funded by NSDC. The HSSDC is expected to define quality standards for the industry by contributing to the development of curriculum, certification and accreditation.

Talking to MAIL TODAY, Dr Naresh Trehan, president, IHF, said, "Yes, IHF is acquiring

5.1 per cent stake in NSDC. With this, we will be able to train a lot of medical, nursing and para-medical staff in the coming years."

Dr Trehan added, "Healthcare is a major employer and is going to become one of the largest employers in the country. For that, we need to train a lot of people. We need to develop proper skill-sets for better healthcare delivery."

The IHF decision comes close on the heels of software industry body, the National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom), agreeing to pick up a 5.1

Likely to form Healthcare Sector Skills Development Council

per cent equity interest in NSDC. As part of the proposed deal between IHF and NSDC, IHF would be able to nominate one of its nominees to the board of NSDC.

"We are in talks with the IHF about working together to develop trained manpower for the critical healthcare segment. We are hopeful of entering into a formal arrangement shortly," NSDC chief executive officer (CEO) and managing director (MD) Dilip Chenoy said.

Once the IHF comes on board the NSDC,

the healthcare industry body would join the likes of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci), the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham), the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), CREDAI, Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI), Gems & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), Council of Leather Exports (CLE), and SIAM, which already has shareholding in NSDC.

NSDC has an equity base of ₹10 crore. While the private sector holds 51 per cent of the equity, the balance 49 per cent stake is with the government. The government, though, has provided nearly ₹1,000 crore to NSDC in the form of initial corpus.

IHF's keenness to establish a linkage with NSDC stems from the realisation that there would be a huge shortage in manpower required for the healthcare industry by 2022 unless remedial measures are put in place urgently.

NSDC has already funded four proposals till now that have a combined target of imparting skills to more than 1.5 million youth over a 10-year period. Apart from these, it has recently decided to form a joint venture with Centum Learning, an associate company belonging to the Bharti Group.

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